new ground in fiction, and the description the marsh country are fresh and good. So are the accounts of the stirring to action of bigoted mobs of peasants. There is an nordinate amount of fighting, however, the villains are very black, their acts needlessly melodramatic, and though separate episodes are well told, they often seem to have no reason, save to keep the characters hard at work. Toward the end the author epparently keeps on simply because he does not quite know how to end his story, and he might just as well go on for volumes

before closing. Sope the less, the hero is a manly young fellow, the heroine a pleasing if overvise young person, there are various attractive subordinates and the story goes on briskly. even though aimlessly at times, and everybody is extremely strenuous. The reade will keep on if he once begins the book.

Good Short Stories.

An entertaining little love story is told in antique form by Mr. Booth Tarkington in "Cherry" (Harpers). The humor is provided by the self-sufficing prig who s the narrator. He is a Princeton man of the last century, and it seems a rather eft-handed compliment for the author to dedicate the story to his classmates of Princeton, '93. He was thinking only of the local color, no doubt.

Half a dozen very good horse stories are told by Mr. David Gray in "Gallops 2" (The Century Company). The horses are such as appear in horse shows and hunts, and the people are the frequenters of these institutions and of country clubs. There is plenty of fun and humor and the horses are worth knowing.

Once more Mrs. Margaret Deland turns to Old Chester for pleasant stories in "Dr. Lavendar's People" (Harpers). That delightful country town has already many friends, who will enjoy visiting it again and hearing the humorous and pathetic tales of the happenings since they were there last from the accredited chronicler of the town. In these days when psychopathic studies and realistic horrors are offered for light reading it is a comfort to meet again with natural and real ladies and gentlemen.

She Was Not Hanged for a Witch.

Mrs. Amelia E. Barr's story "The Black Shilling" (Dodd, Mead & Co.) opens in the Juglish Boston, in Lincolnshire, and proeeds to the other Boston, in Massachusetts. In the American Boston, at the time of this history, they were cleaning out the witches, and the shilling of the title is the money supposed to have been paid to every witch by the devil. We believe that the interest of the reader will be enlisted in the beginning, where he will find himself introduced to Mrs. Thrale's red brick house in the older town, and to the heroine, Miss Frances Vaughan, newly from Mrs. Turner's school in the city of York and now singing with joy at the fresh sense of her emancipation from all restraining authority, save only that scarce noticeable of an indulgent

grandmother. She was not prepared for her first meeting with Capt. Paul Therold, but it is made plain that the Captain could have had no fault to find. "It is true that when she again reached the ivy covered porch," just before this sterling young man was to come into her life, "she was astonishingly untidy for a lately finished pupil of the most precise school in England. But, oh, how lovely was the sweet disorder of her hair, the bright flush on her cheeks, the eager joy in her beaming eyes!" Forty pages further on we come upon this entirely reasonable piece of conversation: "Frances! Sweet Frances, were you praying for me?" "Yes, Paul." "Dear one, will you always re-member me so?" "Always, Paul." "Oh,

you, Frances?" "Yes." "Do you love me?"
"Yes." "Very much?" "Yes, very much." Will you be my wife?" "Yes." The sophisticated reader may laugh, as his easy habit is, but if this is not realism we are much mistaken.

There are illustrations. One of them is a portrait of Frances, and it is plain from that she was every bit as handsome as Mrs. Barr declares. In another we see Mr. Increase Mather, of whom Mrs. Barr "His face was the face of a scholar perhaps of a fanatic; his eyes those of s nystic, large and slow moving eyes that

had looked into the unseen." In another we see Sara McLeod, ordinarily a "calm browed soft eved woman," now "nothing less than a Delphic Pythoness," relating one of her visions; and in another Frances just after she had been accused of being witch. Cotton Mather was willing to ang our heroine at one time, but of course that was not to be. The stout Governor Sir William Phipps, was on her side, and so of course was Paul. Thomas Vaughan, her father, was set against the entirely leserving and worthy young Captain. would rather see Frances Vaughan dead han the wife of Paul Thorold," he once said: but it was as plain that she was to bless Paul as it was that she was not to be hanged for a witch. An eventful storyone that will keep the interest and the magination of the reader busy

An American Governor of Bermuda. The story called "A Kidnapped Colony. by Mary Raymond Shipman Andrews (Harper & Brothers), is something to amuse the reader. It tells how John Lindsay, s young American of great beauty and charm, established himself as the Governor

of Bermuda, and acted in that capacity for a week, not as a consequence of any plan or intention of the British Government, but entirely on his own hook. He had considerable fun as a usurper, paricularly with little Mr. Bibbe, the English patriot who uncloaked him. It is significant of the virtue and beneficence of his brief administration that he was warmly complimented by the Bishop of Bermuda, a venerable churchman who wore kneebreeches habitually. The real Governor, is pleasant to record, had small difficulty in forgiving him. Of course a young man of John Lindsay's charm was not likely to remain a bachelor; the story makes that point clear, and does it very agreeably. A story of 175 pages, with four spirited illustrations by E. M. Ashe. Welcome

material for a cheerful hour.

Thirty years age Ferdinand Gregorovius, the historian of medieval Rome, published his history and defence of "Incretis Borgis." This is now issued in a translation by John Leslie Garner (Appletons). To explain the life of "the most unfortunate woman in modern history, "it was unavoidable to relate also the doings of her father and brothers and to tell something of a highly interest-ing period of Italian history. The story s far more exciting than most romances, and reats of phases in Italian history and life about which comparatively little that is authoritative can be found in English.

"The Autobiography of Leigh Hunt," & ook that made much sensation in its ey and has been drawn on liberally for quotations since its publication, now ap-

volumes, of which the editor is Mr. Roger Ingpen (E. P. Dutton & Co.). It is adorned with many well executed portraits of Leigh Hunt and of some of his famous contemporaries besides. At the end is a bibliography of Hunt's works

Amateurs rush in where experts fear to read. Mr. W. D. Ellwanger's tastes have turned for a while from versification to rugs, and in "The Oriental Rug" (Dodd Mead & Co.) he undertakes to tell what he has learned about them. For practical use accuracy of statement is even more necessary than attractive presentation The book is adorned with good colored pictures of rugs in the possession of Mr Ellwanger and his relatives.

The popularity attained by Mrs. Alice Hegan Rice's "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" and "Lovey Mary" justifies their presentation in a new and gorgeous edition by the Century Company. Most of the olored pictures which are held to be needful adjuncts of up-to-date novels are painful daubs, but Mrs. Florence Scovel Shinn has succeeded in really illustrating these books with pictures that are works of art and are better on account of the color.

The handsome new edition of Louisa M. Alcott's works published by Little, Brown t Co. now includes "Jo's Boys." Miss Ahrens, the illustrator, has not hit the old fashioned style of figure and costume that Mrs. Stephens was so successful with in the "Little Women" illustrations; some dresses are modern enough to have scandalized poor Miss Alcott, but it would be difficult not to improve on the original drawings that Miss May Alcott provided.

Of all the queer literary products we have received of late "Tittlebat Titmouse" (Funk & Wagnalls Company) is the queerest. It presents that universal genius and bookemitting syndicate, Cyrus Townsend Brady, in a new form, that of condenser. He has cut out the parts of Samuel Warren's "Ten Thousand a Year" that he did not like and added two pages of his own. This had the qualified approval of the late Dr. E. Walpole Warren, the novelist's son, who evidently could not help himself. His etter is prefixed: "I have no objection to your doing as you have done, and am glad of the flattering suggestion that the work is sufficiently popular to deserve such treatment. So far as I am concerned, 'Go on and prosper.' The publication of old books under new names opens up a question of ethics into which we will not enter. On the back of the cover and in an enclosed circular the authorship is ascribed to "Warren and Brady."

One of the most enjoyable and justly successful stories of the last few years, Mr. Henry Harland's "The Cardinal's Snuff-box," is published in a new illustrated edition by John Lane. The pictures are by Mr. G. C. Wilmshurst. The head and tail pieces are charming and appropriate; the larger pictures are pretty good as illustrations go nowadays. Some of the female faces are as dainty and aristocratic as Du Maurier's, while others are of the Gibson girl type, but pretty. We can't help regretting the intrusion of the type, however.

The unusual opportunities which Mrs. Anna Bowman Dodd enjoyed of seeing the Sultan and the hidden places in his abodes while at Constantinople might lead the reader of "In the Palaces of the Sultan" (Dodd. Mead & Co.) to expect unusual information about these matters. In that the reader will be disappointed. There are many fine pictures from photographs; there is some description of places seen, mostly of those that many other travellers may see too; there is a great deal about the author and her own personal impressions of persons and politics and other matters, and there is a thick coating of syrup that covers the persons whom the author met, from Gen. Porter and the Sultan to the attaches and dragomans. Her readiness to believe all that was told her is equalled only by the indiscreetness of are ingeniously her questions. The manner in which the kept up to the harem is dealt with is amazing, both for what is said and for what was apparently not understood. The laudation of Abdul Hamid is more than Oriental, and will be hard to match from any Western source.

Beautifully printed by an English press, Ralph Waldo Emerson's "The Conduct of Life" comes to us in a handsome volume from the Scott-Thaw Company. It is a pleasure to see large type and wide margins properly employed.

A convenient and unpretentious little book, "An Easy Guide to the Constellations, With a Star Atlas." by James Gall, is published in a new, enlarged edition by G. P. Putnam's Sons. It is precisely what its title says, a description of the stars in heaven so clear that a child can identify them.

Two more volumes of famous editions of the early part of the nineteenth century, both with colored prints by Thomas Rowlandson, are published by Messrs. Appleton. One is "The Dance of Life," by the author of "Dr. Syntax," written in the same queer doggerel verse, the other is Goldsmith's "The Vicar of Wakefield," the illustrations for which are decidedly quaint.

A scrapbook for playgoers has been pre pared by Dodd, Mead & Co., with the title "Plays I Have Seen." There are blank spaces for the title, author, theatre, date, cast, remarks of various kinds and blank pages for clippings. Each play has eight pages at its command and the book has space for twenty-eight plays at that rate. There are pages, too, for an index, so that playgoers are left with no excuse for lack of method in their amusements.

This year's events in the cotton market lend unusual interest to the statistics that appear in the thirtieth annual edition of Cotton Movements and Fluctuations. 1898-1903," published by Latham, Alex-

ander & Co. "The Financial Red Book of America" (The Financial Directory Association), professes to give a list of 15,000 persons in the United States, each having \$300,000 or more at his or her command. It is arranged according to States and cities, and gives addresses and other details about

hese persons. From the Brooklyn Eagle press we receive in one valume two stories for boys by Mr. W. W. Hooper, "Phil Sidney; or, A Rich Boy's Trials," and "Jim Dexter; or, Handsome Is as Handsome Does." Both are strongly moral in tone and both are full of exciting incidents, such as in books written for older readers might be thought

to verge on the sensational. Three more volumes in imitation leather covers have been added to the "Thumb Nail' series, published by the Century Company. They are Goldsmith's "She Stoops to Conquer," "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," and "Socrates," which is the translation by Benjamin Jowett of Plato's "Apology" and "Crito," with a part of the "Phaedo."

"The Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation," written by the Venerable Bede, is now to be had in the pretty and convenient "Temple Classics" sedition, published by J. M. Dent & Co. (Macmillans).

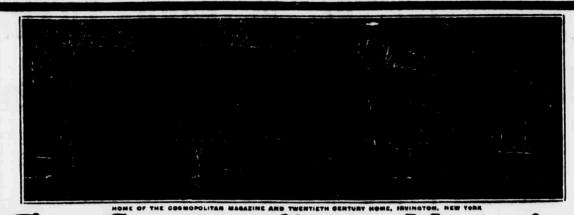
A clear, brief account of the Norse my thology, written by Prof. Friedrich Kauffmann as "Deutsche Mythologie" and trans-lated by Miss M. Staele-Smith of Newnham Cellege into "Northern Mythology," appears as one of the "Temple Primers"

(J. M. Dent & Co.; Macmillans).

Another volume of the Dent edition of Thackeray's works, edited by Mr. Walter

PUBLICATIONS

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Jerrold, and illustrated by Mr. C. E. Brock has come to hand (Macmillans). It is called "Contributions to Punch, &c." It includes the essays on George Cruikshank and on John Leech's Pictures, neither of which is improved by the omission of the pictures

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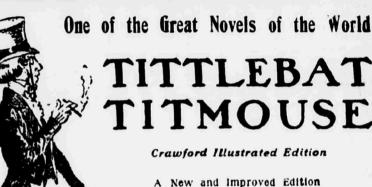
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